



VIA E-MAIL

July 17, 2013

Facilities Development &
Operations Department

2633 Vista Parkway
West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Telephone - (561) 233-0200
Facsimile - (561) 233-0206
www.pbcgov.com/fdo



**Palm Beach County
Board of County
Commissioners**

Steven L. Abrams, Mayor

Priscilla A. Taylor, Vice Mayor

Hal R. Valeche

Paulette Burdick

Shelley Vana

Mary Lou Berger

Jess R. Santamaria

County Administrator

Robert Weisman, P.E.

Mayor Jeri Muoio and City Commissioners
City of West Palm Beach
401 Clematis Street, Second Floor
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

**RE: Senator Philip D. Lewis Center (f/k/a Homeless Resource Center,
HRC) - One Year Status Report**

Dear Mayor Muoio and City Commissioners,

This purpose of this letter is to provide City officials with a one year status report of facility operations in accordance with Provision 34 of our Interlocal Agreement. I am pleased to report that the Senator Philip D. Lewis Center ("Lewis Center") continues to be a highly successful venture in terms of the number of adults and families served, quality and results of services rendered, compatible coexistence with its surroundings, and compliance with each of the many provisions contained within our Interlocal Agreement.

To allow for a comparison of the initial and most recent six (6) month operating periods, attached you will find a table of statistics reflecting facility operating conditions and accomplishments from July 2, 2012 to June 30, 2013. Exact counts cannot always be provided with complete confidence, so best approximations have been made in certain instances to provide a general understanding of magnitude for each topic area. The table does not reflect that additional municipalities have entered into an Interlocal Agreement for law enforcement's use of the facility in the most recent six months, which brings the total number of participating municipalities to 21 not including unincorporated Palm Beach County in its entirety. Agreements with other municipal law enforcement agencies continue to be pursued. All other information reported upon close of the initial six months of operations (i.e. The Lord's Place serving as the primary referral point, two security guards on duty at all hours, maximum of 60 interim housing beds, nominal number and nature of public concerns, etc.) remain unchanged at this time.

Public involvement continues to play a critical role in the Lewis Center's success. Roughly 3,442 hours of volunteer time was donated by 1,005 volunteers over the past year to support the operations and mission of the Lewis Center. An additional 19,025 items valued at approximately

*"An Equal Opportunity
Affirmative Action Employer"*

\$90,000 were donated by the public over the past year to benefit the Lewis Center and its guests. Efforts to sustain and further promote private contributions in support of the Lewis Center and homeless service programs at large remain ongoing by the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County.

Public involvement and Staff accountability have also remained critical elements in the Lewis Center's success. Since last report Neighborhood Oversight Committee meetings were conducted on January 9, February 11, March 11, and May 8, 2013, with support for reducing meeting frequency from monthly to quarterly (absent any vital issue arising) being initiated and unanimously passed by the Committee on May 8, 2013. Committee member and public concerns/complaints in the most recent six month period were focused on local sightings of homeless camps and need for landscape maintenance along the Lewis Center's Windsor Avenue frontage. County Staff took immediate action to rectify the applicable instances on the same or very next day of each being raised for attention. **The Committee continues to encourage the County and City Commissions to give high priority to allocating resources toward the treatment of mental illness, as well as other gaps in services that are beyond the scope yet complimentary to the mission of the Lewis Center.**

As you will recall, Provision 8 of our Interlocal Agreement prohibits guests from becoming enrolled or receiving services at the Lewis Center upon arriving without referral (i.e. walk-up). That same provision allows for reconsideration based upon facility performance following the first year of operations. Accordingly, at the May 3, 2013 meeting of the Neighborhood Oversight Meeting, County Staff suggested that a discussion of the walk-up prohibition be scheduled for the upcoming August 14, 2013 meeting of the Neighborhood Oversight Committee. County Staff, in conjunction with the Lewis Center's contracted service providers, has since further evaluated the operational merits and benefits of this approach in light of: 1) the remaining demand for homeless services, 2) the service capacity of the Lewis Center, and 3) implications for recurring daily service delivery at the present time. Consequently, County Staff no longer intends to discuss or request change to the walk-up prohibition at this time.

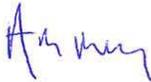
Further reason for deferring decision on the walk-up prohibition is due the fact that The Lord's Place will not be renewing its contract to serve as a navigation center in the coming fiscal year. Therefore, County Staff will be instituting a new navigation approach and measures in the coming weeks as an alternative to use of The Lord's Place. This operational change will continue to comply with Provision 8 of our Interlocal Agreement in that all guests will continue to undergo screening for compliance with minimum enrollment standards (i.e. no sexual predators/offenders, no active warrant, County resident, of sound mind, commitment to end his/her homelessness, etc.) prior to receipt of a referral. Full implementation of the new navigation process is slated for October 1, 2013. That process is being further developed and measures refined at this time ahead of presentation and discussion at the upcoming August 14, 2013 meeting of the Neighborhood Oversight Committee. County Staff has no reason to anticipate that this change will lead to a

heightened number of inadvertent walk-ups or otherwise create any visible signs of change or concern in the vicinity of the Lewis Center when accompanied by an effective promotional campaign to alert homeless individuals and families of these forthcoming changes to becoming enrolled as a Lewis Center service recipient.

Due to ongoing budget constraints, the Lewis Center continues to operate as the County's sole homeless resource center. Staff continues to monitor budget conditions for projected opportunities to construct, furnish and operate an ancillary facility elsewhere in the County. In the interim, the County's Homeless Advisory Board has requested the initiation of site selection for a second facility, and that process is anticipated to commence in the near future. As previously promised, notice will be given as soon as a reliable projection for that additional facility(s) can be assembled.

I hope that this letter and attachment satisfactorily serves as a one year status report for the Lewis Center. I welcome any questions or requests for further information than is provided with this letter. Otherwise, the next report will detail the Lewis Center's second full year of operations. Your support of the Lewis Center and its mission remain very much appreciated by Palm Beach County, its operating partners, Lewis Center beneficiaries, and concerned citizens countywide.

Sincerely,



Audrey Wolf, Director
Facilities Development & Operations

Attachment

Cc: Ed Mitchell, City Administrator
Claudia M. McKenna, City Attorney
Suzanne Payson, Assistant City Attorney
Lela Jordan, Community Resources Manager, WPB Mayors Office
Rick Greene, Planning Manager, WPB Planning Division
Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Robert Weisman, County Administrator
Jon Van Arnam, Assistant County Administrator
Channell Wilkins, Director, Community Services
Claudia Tuck, Division Director, Community Services/Human Services
R. Eric McClellan, Senior Planner, FD&O/PREM
Marilyn Munoz, Executive Director, Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County
Ezra Krieg, Program Director, Senator Philip D. Lewis Center
Neighborhood Oversight Committee (via Lela Jordan)

ONE YEAR STATUS REPORT

Philip D. Lewis Center

Statistical Information

Page 1 of 2

Topic	Category	Initial Six Months (7/2/12- 1/1/13)	Most Recent Six Months (1/2/13- 6/30/13)	Difference	One Year Total
Referrals	The Lord's Place	~2,354	~1794	~-560	~4,148
	WPBPD	11	24	13	35
	PBSO	11	28	17	39
	Other LE	22	18	-4	40
	Other	4	0	-4	4
Arrivals	Adults	~1,966	~1233	~-733	3,199
	Families	~766	499	~-276	~1,265
Refused Service	Failure to meet minimum qualifications	186	433	247	619
	Arrival without referral	202	192	-10	394
Adult Housing Assignment	Total # Assessed	~1,448	~1260	~-188	~2,708
	Halfway Houses	696	533	-163	1,229
	Assisted Living	11	9	-2	20
	Specific Needs Program	161	220	59	381
	Interim Housing	101	161	60	262
	Men	101	99	-2	200
Women*	0	62	62	62	
Family Housing Assignment	Hotels	129	80	-49	209
	Emergency Shelter	40	50	10	90
	Permenant Supportive Housing	7	8	1	15
	Rapid Rehousing	~590	119	~-471	~709

ONE YEAR STATUS REPORT

Philip D. Lewis Center

Statistical Information

Page 2 of 2

Topic	Category	Initial Six Months (7/2/12- 1/1/13)	Most Recent Six Months (1/2/13- 6/30/13)	Difference	One Year Total
Health Services	Total Individuals	2,198	2,748	550	4,946
	Total Visits	2,611	3,181	570	5,792
	Total Treatments	3,489	3,880	391	7,369
Misc. Services	Job Placement	30	35	5	65
	Life Skills Training	376	73	-303	449
Security	Incidents	58	21	-37	79
	Unauthorized Departures	1	2	1	3
	Unauthorized Arrivals	2	4	2	6
	Discharges	13	22	9	35
	WPBPD Responses	4	5	1	9

*Commencement of women interim housing (20 of 60 total beds) was voluntarily deferred until 2/2/2013